

Civil War Book Review

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Annotations

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ANNOTATIONS

Bentley, William Garrigues
Smith, Barbara Bentley, Editor
Baker, Nina Bentley, Editor
Summer 2004

Bentley, William Garrigues, Smith, Barbara Bentley, Editor, and Baker, Nina Bentley, Editor. *"Burning Rails as We Pleased:" The Civil War Letters of William Garrigues Bentley, 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.* McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, \$49.95 ISBN 786416599

Bentley volunteered to serve in the Union army at the age of 19 in 1862. He participated in 13 battles and served for three years before leaving the army at the end of the war. *Burning Rails* outlines his service and contains a roster of the 104th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Burkhimer, Michael
Summer 2004

Burkhimer, Michael *100 Essential Lincoln Books.* Cumberland House Publishing Inc., \$16.95 ISBN 158182369X

Burkhimer's volume is the first guide on Lincoln books in the past fifty years. He has identified one hundred titles of Lincoln scholarship and provides a short essay on each of the works to guide the modern reader.

Durham, Roger S., Editor
Summer 2004

Durham, Roger S., Editor *A Confederate Yankee: The Journal of Edward William Drummond, a Confederate Soldier from Maine.* University of Tennessee Press, \$30.00 ISBN 157233276X

A new addition to the Voices of the Civil War Series features the writings of Ned Drummond. Drummond grew up in an abolitionist family in the North. He married a woman from Savannah, Georgia, and served within the Confederate army and spent a good deal of the war in Union prisons.

Staats, Richard J.

Summer 2004

Staats, Richard J. *A Grassroots History of the American Civil War: Volume I: The Life and Times of Pvt. Ephraim Cooper One of Mr. Lincoln's First Volunteers.* Heritage Books, Inc., \$25.00 ISBN 788423738

Volume one of a two volume set, this part of the collection concentrates on the antebellum life of Ephraim Cooper in northern Ohio. The book describes the events and forces that would lead him to volunteer in the Tyler Guards, a unit that would be incorporated into the 7th Ohio Infantry, at the start of the Civil War.

Staats, Richard J.

Summer 2004

Staats, Richard J. *A Grassroots History of the American Civil War: Volume II: The Bully Seventh Ohio Volunteer Infantry.* Heritage Books, Inc., \$25.50 ISBN 788423746

Volume two of a two volume set, this part of the collection contains the first hand accounts of soldiers of the 7th Ohio Infantry. Most of the materials comes from soldiers' letters to home, many of which were published in local newspapers. The 7th Ohio Infantry Regiment served in the Shenandoah Valley and the Western Theatre.

Smith, Michael Thomas

Summer 2004

Smith, Michael Thomas *A Traitor and a Scoundrel: Benjamin Hedrick and the Cost of Dissent*. University of Delaware Press, \$45.00 ISBN 874138418

Smith writes the biography of Professor Benjamin Hendrick of the University of North Carolina, who in 1856 set off a major controversy over his support of anti-slavery Republican Presidential Candidate John G. Fremont. He was derailed by local newspapers and quickly fired from his position forcing him into exile in the North.

**Ward, Robert David
Rogers, William Warren
Summer 2004**

Ward, Robert David and Rogers, William Warren. *Alabama's Response to the Penitentiary Movement, 1829-1865*. University Press of Florida, \$55.00 ISBN 813026636

Ward and Rogers analyze Alabama's antebellum prison system and how it developed out of the penal reform movement of the 19th century. Another aspect of the study is an examination of the interaction between the prison system and the market economy, and how it changed as a result of the Civil War.

**McPherson, James
Summer 2004**

McPherson, James *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. Oxford University Press, \$18.95 ISBN 019516895X

A new paperback edition of the Pulitzer Prize winning history of the Civil War. See Spring 2004 for a full length review of *The Illustrated Battle Cry of Freedom*.

**Hargrove, Hondon B.
Summer 2004**

Hargrove, Hondon B. *Black Union Soldiers in the Civil War*. McFarland & Company, Inc., \$35.00 ISBN 786416971

A new edition of the late Hargrove's 1988 study that details the contributions of black soldiers during the Civil War. Hargrove includes detailed statistical information about black regiments.

Frazier, Rodney Randolph
Summer 2004

Frazier, Rodney Randolph *Broken Swords: The Lives, Times and Deaths of Eight Former Confederate Generals Murdered After the Smoke of Battle Had Cleared*. Vantage Press, Inc., \$8.95 ISBN 533144388

This series of very brief biographies of several Confederate generals is tied together by the generals' questionable deaths of murder and suicide.

Watkins, Sam R.
Summer 2004

Watkins, Sam R. *Co. Aytch: A Confederate Memoir of the Civil War*. Touchstone Books c/o Simon & Schuster, \$13.00 ISBN 743255410

A new reprint edition of Sam R. Watkins' classic memoir of the Civil War is now available. The work was written twenty years after Watkins finished serving in the 1st Tennessee Infantry Regiment of the Confederacy. This book is a must read for anyone interested in a soldier's perspective on war.

Schneller, Jr., Robert J.
Summer 2004

Schneller, Jr., Robert J. *Cushing: Civil War Seal*. Brassey's, Inc., \$19.95 ISBN 1574885065

The latest addition to the Brassey's Military Profiles series, this book is a military biography of William Barker Cushing. Author Robert J. Schneller Jr. focuses on how Cushing's personality contributed to his military success in ventures such as the sinking of the Confederate Ironclad *Alabama*.

**Valuska, David L.
Keller, Christian B.
Summer 2004**

Valuska, David L. and Keller, Christian B.. *Damn Dutch: Pennsylvania Germans at Gettysburg*. Stackpole Books, \$26.95 ISBN 811700747

This book is entirely dedicated to the contributions of German immigrants at the battle of Gettysburg. In addition to David L. Valuska and Christian B. Keller, Scott Hartwig and Martin Oefele both contribute chapters to this work. One of the study's important themes is the distinction between the Pennsylvania Dutch who had immigrated to the state generations earlier and more recent German immigrants.

**Ball, Charles
Summer 2004**

Ball, Charles *Fifty Years in Chains*. Dover Publications, \$12.95 ISBN 486430960

This book is a reprint of the early slave narrative of 1837, *Slavery in the United States: A Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Charles Ball, a Black Man*. The Ball memoir is an early source for first hand information about plantation life and an example of antebellum abolitionist literature.

**Austin, Lynn
Summer 2004**

Austin, Lynn *Fire By Night*. Bethany House, \$12.99 ISBN 1556614438

Christian novelist Lynn Austin follows up her historical novel *Candle in the Darkness* about the Civil War from a southern perspective with this novel that follows the trials and tribulations the author's protagonist Union nurse Julia Hoffman.

Hendrick, George, Editor
Hendrick, Willene, Editor
Summer 2004

Hendrick, George, Editor and Hendrick, Willene, Editor. *Fleeing for Freedom: Stories of the Underground Railroad as Told by Levi Coffin and William Still.* Ivan R. Dee, Publisher, \$14.95 ISBN 1566635462

George and Willene Hendrick have selected a range of stories from two of the most important records of the Underground Railroad: Levi Coffin's *Reminiscences* and William Still's *The Underground Rail Road*. The editors have also written an introduction giving a brief history of the Underground Railroad and placing these works within context.

O'Leary, Elizabeth L.
Summer 2004

O'Leary, Elizabeth L. *From Morning to Night: Domestic Service in Maymont House and the Gilded Age South.* University of Virginia Press, \$27.95 ISBN 813921600

Elizabeth L. O'Leary's study of Gilded Age Virginia examines the change from the master-slave relation to that of employer-employee in the household. O'Leary concentrates on the household of James H. and Sallie Dooley and the Virginia incarnation of *Upstairs/Downstairs*. Race plays a prominent role in this study as most of the servant positions were filled by black men and women.

Cothran, James R.
Summer 2004

Cothran, James R. *Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South*. University of South Carolina Press, \$49.95 ISBN 1570035016

James R. Cothran's richly illustrated volume examines the garden history of the antebellum South. Cothran's work includes an historical overview of the period and the volume includes many maps and layouts of southern estates. A section on period literature on gardening and horticulture is included.

**Asfar, Dan
Thay, Edrick
Summer 2004**

Asfar, Dan and Thay, Edrick. *Ghost Stories of the Civil War*. Lone Pine Publishing, \$10.95 ISBN 1894877160

Illustrated with grainy black and white photos, Asfar and Thay have weaved together a collection of tales of ghosts that are tied to specific locations such as the Gettysburg battlefield and Harper's Ferry.

**Nolen, Rose M.
Summer 2004**

Nolen, Rose M. *Hoecakes, Hambone, and All That Jazz: African American Traditions in Missouri*. University of Missouri Press, \$12.95 ISBN 826215017

Nolen traces the roots of African-American culture in Missouri through the course of American history. Beginning with the colonial period and moving forward through the antebellum era, the Civil War, and its aftermath, the narrative focuses on several figures such as William Wells Brown, John Berry Meachum, and Elizabeth Keckley.

**Holland, Katherine, Editor
Summer 2004**

Holland, Katherine, Editor *Keep All My Letters: The Civil War Letters of Richard Henry Brooks, 51st Georgia Infantry*. Mercer University Press, \$29.95 ISBN 865548404

This book is a collection of letters of a soldier in one of Longstreet's corps to his wife in Georgia. The letters are full of details about rural life and economic survival in the middle of the 19th century. Brooks served from 1862 to the end of the war and spent a year in a Union prison.

Leonard, Elizabeth D.
Summer 2004

Leonard, Elizabeth D. *Lincoln's Avengers: Justice, Revenge, and Reunion after the Civil War*. W.W. Norton & Company, \$25.95 ISBN 393048683

Leonard's study reveals a rich tapestry of characters involved in the trail of the conspirators in the aftermath of Lincoln's assassination. Among the prominent figures featured are Dr. Samuel Mudd, Mary Surratt, President Andrew Johnson, and the sworn avenger of Lincoln, Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt.

Perret, Geoffrey
Summer 2004

Perret, Geoffrey *Lincoln's War: The Untold Story of America's Greatest President as Commander in Chief*. The Random House Publishing Group, \$35.00 ISBN 375507388

Perret, the author of presidential biographies on Grant, Eisenhower, and Kennedy, has turned his attention to Lincoln. This new Lincoln biography examines Lincoln's role in the creation of the modern commander-in-chief and how the expanded role of the executive in military affairs saved the Union. Perret's focus is on Lincoln as a war leader and provides analysis of his relationships with his generals, Secretary of State Edwin Stanton, and Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles.

Swain, Martha H., Editor
Payne, Elizabeth Anne, Editor
Spruill, Marjorie Julian, Editor
Summer 2004

Swain, Martha H., Editor, Payne, Elizabeth Anne, Editor, and Spruill, Marjorie Julian, Editor. *Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives.* University of Georgia Press, \$22.95 ISBN 820325031

A product of the Mississippi Women's History Project, this collection of biographies captures the stories of 17 historical figures. Prominent 19th century women included in this collection are Felicite Girodeau, Winnie Davis, and Belle Kearney.

Hamm, Richard F.
Summer 2004

Hamm, Richard F. *Murder, Honor, and Law: Four Virginia Homicides from Reconstruction to the Great Depression.* University of Virginia Press, \$18.50 ISBN 813922089

The four murders, of Hamm's study, span across 70 years of American history beginning in Reconstruction Richmond and ending during the Great Depression in Wise County, Virginia. Hamm uses the murders as a vehicle to examine the relationships between southern culture and the national media.

Andrews, William L., Editor
Summer 2004

Andrews, William L., Editor *North Carolina Slave Narratives: The Lives of Moses Roper, Lunsford Lane, Moses Grandy, & Thomas H. Jones.* University of North Carolina Press, \$27.50 ISBN 807828211

This collection of four slave narratives, detailing a variety of experiences in North Carolina, were originally published prior to the Civil War. The collective work of Roper, Lane, Grandy, and Jones was widely distributed and contributed

to the abolitionist movement. The narratives contributed to the development of an African-American literary tradition.

Petersen, Paul R.
Summer 2004

Petersen, Paul R. *Quantrill of Missouri: The Making of a Guerilla Warrior: The Man, the Myth, the Soldier*. Cumberland House Publishing Inc., \$26.95 ISBN 1581823592

Paul R. Petersen, a former marine, has written this revisionist biography of William Clarke Quantrill, who was referred to by some of his contemporaries as a second Nero. In this sympathetic take, Petersen attempts to portray the butcher of Lawrence as an educated moral man whose career began by protecting the lives and property of the people whom ere being daily robbed and killed by enemies who hid their criminal deeds behind the cloak of a flag that they used for their own selfish greed and actions.

Roland, Charles P.
Summer 2004

Roland, Charles P. *Reflections on Lee: A Historian's Assessment*. Louisiana State University Press, \$14.95 ISBN 807129119

This book is reprint of Charles P. Roland's, the author of *An American Iliad: The Story of the Civil War*, short 1995 biography of Robert E. Lee. Roland's work is more than an account of Lee's life but a critical assessment of his life and his legend.

Taylor, John M.
Summer 2004

Taylor, John M. *Semmes: Rebel Raider*. Brassey's, Inc., \$19.95 ISBN 1574884190

The latest addition to the Brassey's Military Profiles series, this book is a military biography of Confederate Admiral Raphael Semmes. John M. Taylor addresses his resourcefulness and audacity as a sailor and the role he played in the evolution of naval warfare.

Byrd, Max
Summer 2004

Byrd, Max *Shooting the Sun*. Bantam Books, \$23.95 ISBN 553802089

Max Byrd's novel spans from the streets of Victorian London to the American Southwest. Set in the 1840's, the novel follows an English inventor, Charles Babbage, as he sets off to test a new invention with the help of heroine Selena Cott as they pursue a predicted solar eclipse.

Mach, Tom
Summer 2004

Mach, Tom *Sissy!: Book One of the Jessica Radford Trilogy*. Hill Song Press, \$15.95 ISBN 974515922

This novel follows two former slaves as they navigate the treacherous terrain of Civil War Kansas. In the aftermath of Quantril's raid of Lawrence, Mach highlights the violence of the period and the contributions of women in the defense of their families.

Noe, Kenneth W.
Summer 2004

Noe, Kenneth W. *Southwest Virginia's Railroad: Modernization and the Sectional Crisis in the Civil War Era*. University of Alabama Press, \$19.95 ISBN 817350640

Kenneth W. Noe, co-editor of *The Civil War in Appalachia*, examines the construction of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad in the 1850's. Noe finds that

the railroad reoriented the economy of Southwest Virginia around stable crops and slavery. He concludes that this led to regional support of secession. This is a new paperback edition of the book originally published in 1994.

Spruill, Matt

Summer 2004

Spruill, Matt *Storming the Heights: A Guide to the Battle of Chattanooga.* University of Tennessee Press, \$21.00 ISBN 1572332379

Matt Spruill's guide describes the battle through the words of officers as published in the official record. Spruill includes directions for travel around the Battle of Chattanooga Battlefield Park, as well as several black and white photographs and maps illustrating troop movements and positions.

Greiner, James M.

Summer 2004

Greiner, James M. *Subdued by the Sword: A Line Officer in the 121st New York Volunteers.* State University of New York Press, \$18.95 ISBN 791458687

Greiner biography of John S. Kidder of Company I is based on letters Kidder wrote to his wife Harriet during the war. Kidder fought at many of the most important battlefields of the Eastern theatre. Several photographs and maps are included.

Harrison, Lowell H.

Summer 2004

Harrison, Lowell H. *The Antislavery Movement in Kentucky.* University Press of Kentucky, \$16.00 ISBN 813190835

Originally published in 1978, Harrison's study provides a survey of the most prominent abolitionists in Kentucky. Of central interest in this book are the efforts of Cassius Clay, James G. Birney, and Delia Webster.

Shaw, Antony, Editor
Summer 2004

Shaw, Antony, Editor *The Civil War Catalog*. Running Press, \$19.98 ISBN 762416254

This coffee table volume is richly illustrated with period photographs and drawings of people and artifacts. Also, a brief narrative provides some context for the illustrations.

Axelrod, Alan
Summer 2004

Axelrod, Alan *The Complete Idiot's Guide to the Civil War: Second Edition*. Alpha Books, \$19.95 ISBN 1592571328

Axelrod's skeletal guide to the Civil War provides basic information on a variety of subjects. The work is illustrated with several black and white photographs and maps laced between the main prose and boxed-off extras.

Walter, John F.
Summer 2004

Walter, John F. *The Confederate Dead in Brooklyn: Biographical Sketches of 513 Confederate POWs*. Heritage Books, Inc., \$24.50 ISBN 788424521

Short biographies of the over 500 Confederate POWs buried in New York City are featured in this small book. The author has also included appendices providing further details.

Trotter, William R.
Summer 2004

Trotter, William R. *The Fires of Pride*. Carroll & Graf, \$26.00 ISBN 786712236

Characters from Trotter's previous novel *The Sands of Pride* are resurrected in this novel about the Civil War in North Carolina. The novel picks up the story after the Confederate defeat at Gettysburg and follows the lives of Trotter's fictional and quasi-historical characters to the war's conclusion.

Gerhardt, Michael
Summer 2004

Gerhardt, Michael *The Lincoln Affair*. Impact Press, \$19.95 ISBN 967182549

Gerhardt's novel begins with an actor being hired to portray an ailing Lincoln after his second inauguration. The author weaves historical fact and imagined intrigue together to create a fictional account of the last few months of Lincoln's presidency.

Simon, John Y., Editor
Summer 2004

Simon, John Y., Editor *The Papers of Ulysses S. Grant: Volume 26: 1875*. Southern Illinois University Press, \$75.00 ISBN 809324997

This immense collection of Grant's writings, published under the auspices of the Ulysses S. Grant Association in partnership with Southern Illinois University, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, with the 26th volume includes the papers the end of Grant's presidency. This volume includes Grant's wrangling over the possibility of a third term, the political fallout of the Whiskey Ring scandal, and his presidential tour of the west.

Healey, Donald W.
Summer 2004

Healey, Donald W. *The Road to Glorieta: A Confederate Army Marches Through New Mexico.* Heritage Books, Inc., \$43.50 ISBN 788423789

The little known, strategically questionable, and doomed expedition of the Confederacy's invasion of the Pacific Southwest is the subject of Donald W. Healey's new book. Principally drawn from personal accounts and remembrances, the work leads the reader from the inception of the expedition to its eventual demise.

Coe, Lewis
Summer 2004

Coe, Lewis *The Telegraph: A History of Morse's Invention and Its Predecessors in the United States.* McFarland & Company, Inc., \$29.95 ISBN 786418087

This book is a new paperback edition of Lewis Coe's 1993 history of the telegraph. Coe describes the nature of the invention, the history of its creation, how it worked, and the role that the telegraph played and important role in American history.

Williamson, David
Summer 2004

Williamson, David *The Third Battalion Mississippi Infantry and the 45th Mississippi Regiment: A Civil War History.* McFarland & Company, Inc., \$49.95 ISBN 786416491

This regimental history details the contribution of a group of men who served over the full course of the Civil War as a part of the Army of Tennessee. The point of view taken by this history is from that of the common soldier. David Williamson uses soldier's journals and diaries to reconstruct the units' battles.

Green, Elna C.
Summer 2004

Green, Elna C. *This Business of Relief: Confronting Poverty in a Southern City, 1740-1940*. University of Georgia Press, \$22.95 ISBN 082032552X

Covering three centuries of history, Elna C. Green's study runs the full gamut of historical forces that have shaped poverty in the south. She addresses a variety of social welfare programs that have been attempted in the south. Her book is divided into historical periods such as The Civil War: Redefining the Worthy' Poor and Reconstruction: The Contest over Poor Relief.

Heidari, Melissa Walker, Editor
Summer 2004

Heidari, Melissa Walker, Editor *To Find My Own Peace: Grace King in Her Journals, 1886-1910*. University of Georgia Press, \$39.95 ISBN 820325651

Grace King was a prolific southern writer of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This previously unpublished journal provides many insights not found within her autobiography. Melissa Walker Heidari's introduction places King in the context of present scholarship on women's life narratives and King's experiences.

Cotton, Gordon A
Giambrone, Jeff T.
Summer 2004

Cotton, Gordon A and Giambrone, Jeff T.. *Vicksburg and the War*. Pelican Publishing Co., \$19.95 ISBN 1589801717

This book is a richly illustrated short history of Vicksburg, Mississippi and its involvement in the Civil War. While the story focuses in large part on the siege of Vicksburg, the spirit and patriotism of the townspeople figure prominently.

Black, Jeremy, Editor

Summer 2004

Black, Jeremy, Editor *War in the Modern World Since 1815*. Routledge Press, \$27.95 ISBN 415251400

This collection of essays covers diverse topics ranging from Southeast Asia, Western Europe, Latin America, and to the United States. Spencer Tucker writes an essay on the United States military.

Underwood, Rodman L.
Summer 2004

Underwood, Rodman L. *Waters of Discord: The Union Blockade of Texas during the Civil War*. McFarland & Company, Inc., \$39.95 ISBN 786416556

This work is an overview of the Union effort to blockade the Texas coastline during the Civil War. The author examines most of the major blockade battles of the region as well as the trade relationship between Mexico and the Confederacy.

Hummel, Maria
Summer 2004

Hummel, Maria *Wilderness Run: A Novel*. St. Martin's Griffin, \$13.95 ISBN 312320477

Maria Hummel's 2002 acclaimed novel is now available in paperback. The novel begins in the winter of 1859 and follows the trials and tribulations of two rich Vermont cousins throughout the Civil War. One cousin serves within the Union army and the other volunteers as a nurse.

McDevitt, Theresa
Summer 2004

McDevitt, Theresa *Women and the American Civil War: An Annotated Bibliography*. Praeger, \$64.95 ISBN 313321051

McDevitt's reference is extensive and exhaustive bibliography. She has divided her book into several section, each dealing with a different aspect of women's involvement such as Soldier Aid, Economic Challenges and Opportunities, Women in the War Zone, and Spies, Scouts, Smugglers, and Raiders.

Culpepper, Marilyn Mayer
Summer 2004

Culpepper, Marilyn Mayer *Women of the Civil War South: Personal Accounts from Diaries, Letters and Post War Reminiscences*. McFarland, \$39.95 ISBN 786416955

Culpepper has combined a diverse group of diaries and letters written by Southern women who experienced the Civil War apart from the plantation. Included, among others, are writings by Mary White (a fifteen-year-old girl from North Carolina), Nancy Jones (a woman who experienced the violence of Civil War Missouri), and Sarah Dandridge Duval (a refugee in Richmond, Virginia).